

THE BEACON HILL SOCIETY

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Minutes of the AGM and Meeting on Wednesday, 17th April 2013 at the Waggon and Horses, Doultling Beacon

Present: Richard Raynsford (chairman), Julian Back (secretary, webmaster), Peter Banks (treasurer), Mary Newman (mem. sec & Doultling PC), Jonathan Burgess (Woodland Trust), Brenda Rogers, Philip Malcolm, Jennie O’Kane, Christine Mayle, Bo Walsh (Mendip DC), Paul Newman

Apologies: Caroline Gentinetta, Elizabeth Gibbs, Rina May, Alan Connock, Eileen Bird

AGM

Richard welcomed us to the meeting.

Officers Reports

Chairman: nothing to report

Treasurer: agreed, £1109.09 carried forward

Secretary: many events from last year affected by weather, hope to do better this year

Membership secretary: 22 paid up members last year, subs are now due

Election of Officers

Chairman: Richard Raynsford

Treasurer: Peter Banks

Secretary: Julian Back

Membership secretary: Mary Newman

Organisation and Subscriptions

No change. Subscription is still £5 due in April

General Meeting

1 Minutes of previous meeting 6th February, 2013

The previous minutes were accepted

2 Matters arising

- Our decision to not do any hedge laying until Autumn 2013 was not included in the previous minutes. There followed a discussion about the hedge laying activity. Could the BTCV be involved? Jon reported that they could be quite expensive (£240/day). We could open out the hedge laying training and get people to pay to do a days training. Need to check about liability insurance with the trainer. Volunteers could also purchase or take for free the firewood resulting

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from the hedge laying. This activity might be a good opportunity for publicity and to get new members.

3 Officers reports

Secretary: Julian reported that the fallen beech tree has been cut up and largely removed. There was some evidence of motorbikes using the Fosse Way. There is also quite a bit of rubbish, especially near the entrance to the wood so a litter pick would be good before the vegetation grows up.

Treasurer: See AGM minutes above for current status.

Membership Secretary: Mary reported that another Doultling school trip is planned. While the portaloos are in the wood we should see if any other local schools would like to visit the wood – but they need plenty of notice. He children of Doultling School were also involved in Woodland Trust tree planting at Alhampton.

Woodland Trust: Jon told us that the British Mycological Association will be visiting the wood in the autumn but the trip is for BMA members only. There will be some clearing of the sunken track later this month. No felling is planned this year.

4 Future Events

Litter Pick: Sunday, 28th April at 2pm. Bring a rubbish bag. We will also put up a Bluebell Trail.

Earth Science Centre Visit: Tuesday, 14th May at 2pm. The following have registered to come on this trip:

Julian Back
Brenda Rogers
Peter Banks
Philip Malcom
Jon Burgess
Bo Walsh
Paul Newman
Biz Gibbs
Jennie O’Kane
Christine Mayle
Richard Raynsford
Janet Raynsford

Moth Evening: Paul Newman is waiting to hear from the moth experts if/when they could do this.

Road-Up Gang and Open Day: this would be good to do in mid July. Jon offered to do a guided walk round the wood. We could also have a BBQ. This could be another recruitment opportunity.

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5 Any other business

Mary will contact Rina May about the newsletter.

6 Next Meeting

Wednesday, 12th June 2013, 7.30pm at The Waggon and Horses (TBC)

Julian Back (Secretary)

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